

PATENT  
2001-0079

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 4 and 8 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (presently amended) A method for echo reduction, comprising:  
~~setting a predetermined time period having an expiration;~~  
~~initializing a timer to operate for said predetermined time period at a start of a~~  
~~transmission of communication signals; and~~  
attenuating communication signals at the start of ~~said a~~ transmission until (i) until receipt of one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold; and (ii) if there is no said receipt of said one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold, then until said expiration of said a predetermined time period to reduce amplitudes of echo signals prior to echo cancellation .
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving one or more echo canceller signals from said one or more echo cancellers; and  
adjusting an attenuation value based on the echo canceller signals to attenuate the  
communication signals.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
providing for one or more attenuation values; and  
attenuating the communication signals based on the attenuation values.

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7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
setting the attenuation values based on an estimated effectiveness of ~~the~~ said one or more  
echo cancellers from the start of the communication.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A method for echo reduction, comprising:  
detecting a start of a communication;  
receiving one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo  
signals are cancelled below a threshold; and  
attenuating communication signals of the communication for a predetermined time to  
reduce amplitudes of echo signals based on the signals received from the echo cancellers prior to  
echo cancellation.